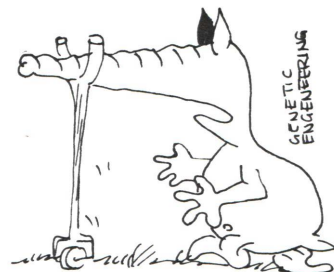


BILK

A NEWSLETTER FOR WATER-
MONSTER-SIGHTINGS



This is BILK issue 4 / September 1985 / edited by Ulrich Magin / BILK appears bi-monthly. Subscription 3 for Europe and \$ 5 for the USA.

Editors Note: I did some improvement on typing and layout, and I hope you will like it. I was unsatisfied with the previous three editions: layout and printing quality was very bad. From this issue on, the seaserpent and the goblin will be the symbols of BILK, and I'll do some pictures. Also, whenever possible, I will only cover recent reports, with old ones only when of high interest.

BEHEMOTH:

- And this issue start with an old report: There have been many claims of newspaper reports about the Loch Ness Monster before 1930, but so far all these claims have been proved to be hoaxes. Now I think I may have in fact found this long searched item. The INVERNESS COURIER, of 1.VII.1852 carries a report about a strange occurrence at Lochend. Many people watched two giant creatures swimming in the loch, and "some thought it was the seaserpent coiling along the surface", others thought it was the kelpie itself. Several men rushed to take their rifles, but before they could shoot at the creatures they realised that it were two ponies that had swam across the loch from Aldourie. Nevertheless, this is the first mention of a seaserpent in connection with the loch, and shows that both were associated by local people.

- For all those who claim lakemonsters are not physical the next report proves that this cannot apply to all unidentified lake creatures: In Lake Hanas, in the province Sinkiang in north-west China, lakemonsters were repeatedly seen. Local folklore described the monster as looking like an upturned boat, and when a Chinese professor and his students observed the lake from a nearby mountain with the aid of binoculars, they spotted several boat like objects of red colour. At closer examination, the monsters proved to be some dozen giant fish swimming in a row. The newspaper accounts do not say if photos were taken, but the fish responsible for the sightings were described as follows: a giant, red fish, with a head measuring one metre / 30 feet in breadth, weighing several tons and belonging to the salmon kind. Geologists of the Institute of Ecology in Sinkiang counted as much as 100 fish in the lake. (Sources: The London STANDARD, 16.VIII.1985; SONNTAG AKTUELL, 18.VIII.1985)

- Champ of Lake Champlain, which is now being promoted as America's Loch Ness Monster, has already been seen six times this year, according to the recent issue of Champ Channels, the newsletter dedicated to it. Mr Joseph Zarzynski, the editor, has also written a book about his favourite subject, Champ - beyond the legend. Copies can be obtained from M-Z Information, P.O. Box 2129, Wilton, New York 12866, USA. I have a copy of the book, and while the text itself is no great news for those who read several newsletters and fortune magazines, it has a very good index of Champ sightings so far reported, which enables everyone to draw his own conclusions. Recommended.

ISIS:

- The mermaid of Macapa (see BILK of May 1985) is not an isolated occurrence. In a recent German television programme (On 'Hessen 3', 26.VII.1985) Jacques Cousteau reported the superstition surrounding the dol-

phins that live in the Amazonas. Cousteau met an old man from Pucallpa in Peru, who reported that a dolphin tempted him disguised as beautiful woman, who wore only pants and bra. He did not follow her, knowing she was only a dolphin.

He also reported that male dolphins sometimes rape human girls so that they become pregnant. The embryo resulting from these encounters is formed like a fish.

Another man, who lived at Bria Grande at the Rio Negro, Brasil, told the same story: the child that was born resembled a human girl, but with the head of a dolphin with beak and two blowing holes.

He also repeated the story that female dolphins change their form into that of a very beautiful girl, *chica preciosa*, and that male dolphins that transform into boys can be recognized because they always wear a hat to hide their blowing holes.

It seems the recent encounter of April 1984 must be viewed in this context, so that we hardly have to look for a natural explanation.

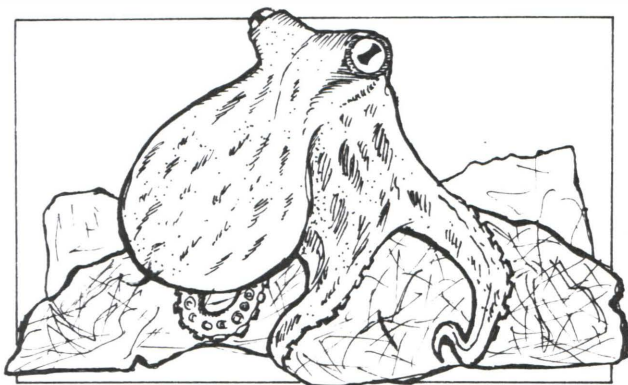
LEVIATHAN:

- This year has already produced three seaserpent sightings, so that we can hope for more. On February 5, Robert and William Clark observed a 60 ft seaserpent off the marina green in San Francisco, California, USA. It was blackish-green in colour with fan-like appendages. According to the witnesses, it was chasing seal. This is only the most recent in a number of observations at the Californian coast, and I wonder if we have a new local seamonster here, like Morgawr or Chessie.

- Chessie, just mentioned above, has been seen two times this year. First on Good Friday at the mouth of Back River by Nancy Gabriszeski. She said it resembled a giant snake 20 - 30 ft long. This is the usual description of Chessie, with very few details, and the next report, retold, like all three seaserpents of this issue, in CHAMP CHANNELS, 2/1985, is from a couple in a boat. It happened on Wye River, and was described as a "thing" 30 - 35 ft long and 75 ft from their boat.

KRAKEN:

- I wrote about a big, or giant, octopus of the Mediterranean in BILK of May 1985, and now there is a new report: Sometime before May 1985, according to the DAILY TELEGRAPH, 7.V.1985, a British diver, Mr Mark Caney, was ^{near} killed by a giant octopus off Kata Paphos in Cyprus. If I interpret the report correctly, the octopus had a tentacle span of about 6 ft. He gripped Mr Caney's back and head with tentacles as big as an upper arm and egg-sized suction cups, tearing off his diver's mask. Mr Caney managed to go into shallow



water, when the creature disentangled itself and darted off.

- Last item for today: A giant squid was caught off the southwest coast of Japan in January 1985. It had a length of three metres and a weight of 112 pounds. The last giant squid caught there, according to my files, was a 20 ft creature caught in May 1983. (FORTEAN TIMES, 44, p.26)

This is the END of another BILK, please write me to tell me your opinion or new sightings. Ulrich Magin, Stuhlbruderhofstraße 4, 6704 Mutterstadt, WEST GERMANY.

Next BILK will appear in November, hopefully with some interesting news.